(c) whether! Governmen^ propose to review the existing tea export policy on quota system to maintain its market share, if so, what are the details thereof, and

(d) whether Government have explored the possibility of exporting tea to the markets of Kuwait, Quater and West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia and Iraq?



THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Exports of tea during the past two years have been as under:—

| Year | Exports | |
|---|---|---|
| | Qty. (M. Kgs.) | Value (Rs. Crores |
| 1984 . . . | 217.0 | 740.45 |
| 1985 . . . (Estimated) | 222.4 | 711.90 |

(b) Table below indicates share of major producing countries in world tea exports during 1980 to 1984:—

(Share in world exports of tea—percentage)

| | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| India . . . . . | 26.0 | 28.2 | 23.2 | 23.97 | 23.4 |
| Srilanka . . . . . | 21.4 | 21.4 | 22.1 | 18.1 | 22.0 |
| China . . . . . | 12.5 | 10.8 | 12.9 | 14.3 | 13.8 |
| Kenya . . . . . | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.7 | 11.5 | 9.8 |
| Indonesia . . . . . | 7.9 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 9.8 |

(c) There are, at present, no restrictions on export of tea.

(d) As a part of the strategy for promotion of Indian teas in value added forms, a pilot project for uninational cum brand promotion campaign in ARE, has been sanctioned. Besides, Tea Board also undertakes promotional campaign in West Asian counries through its offices at Kuwai and Cairo,

**Imposition of fine on Bank of Madurai for* assisting illegal import of steel**

935. SHRl V. GOPALSAMY:

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal has imposed a fine on Bank of Madurai for assisting illegal import of steel items by a certain dealer;

(b) if sty what i# the quantum of fine imposed and the details of the case;

(c) whether any inquiry ha$_s$ been ordered to fix the responsibility of the officials of the Bank in this regard, if not what are the rasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to recover the fine from those officials who are responsible for colluding with the dealer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank of Madura Limited had opened a few letters of credit on behalf of one Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania a dealer in steel items. The Collector of Customs, Madras on grounds of violation of Customs Act, 1962 had adjudicated th$_e$ cases i$^n$ respect of these transactions and ordered confiscation of the goods imported under section 111(d) of the Act. Since the supposed importers had not come forward . to clear the goods the Collector of Customs, Madras allowed the same to be re--deemed by the Bank of Madura Ltd. ag joint holder of the import licences on redemption fines totalling to Rs. 7 lakhs. Central Board of Excise and Customs reviewed this decision ofthe Collector of Custmos Madras and had thereafter directed him to apply to Customs, Central Excise and Gold (Control) appellate Tribunal for enhancement of redemption fine$_s$ and also for imposition of Personal Penalties on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania and the Bank of Madur$_a$ Ltd. The Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) appellate Tribunal allowed the appeals preferred by the Collector of Customs Madras and enhanced the total fine on Bank of Madura Ltd. from Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs and also imposed a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh$_s$ on Shri Vinod Kumar Didwania.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with Reserve Bank of India.

**Los$_s$ to FCI due to poor storage of Foodgrains**

936. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been incurring losses due to the open storage/poor storage of fodgrains;

(b) if so, the extent of loss incurred during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 as a result thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken Or propose to take to avoid such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total storage loss of food grains during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 has been to the extent of 0.65 per cent, 0.59 per cent and 0.60 per cent of the stocks issued respectively.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to further reduce these losses such as increasing covered storage capacity, scientific storage and preservation, periodial inspections and pest control measiires.

**Ban on import of meat by certain countries**

937. DR. MOHD: HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2247 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 1985 and state:

(a) what progress has been made in persuading the Governments of